

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 -14, 16, 17 and 20 have been amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled and Claim 21 has been added. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to place the claims in proper U.S. format. The claims have also been amended to incorporate the Article 34 amendments filed in the International Application for the Examiner's convenience.

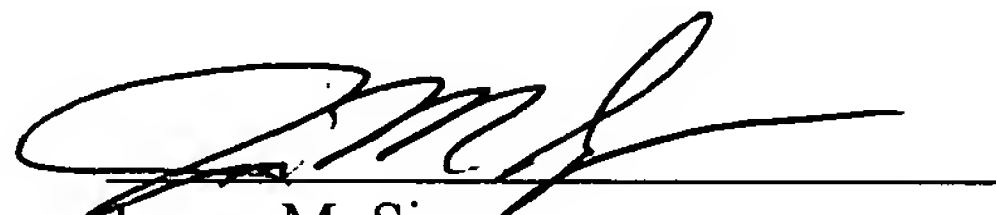
Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination.

Should there be any questions or other matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

### **AUTHORIZATION**

No fee is believed to be required for the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully submitted,  
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP

  
James M. Singer  
Registration No. 45,111

Pepper Hamilton LLP  
One Mellon Bank Center, 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
500 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Telephone: (412) 454-5000  
Facsimile: (412) 281-0717

Date: September 1, 2006